

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 COLOMB 03733 251201Z

12

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 H-02 /051 W

----- 018674

P 251100Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3783

INFO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COLOMBO 3733

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CE

SUBJ: DRAFT STATEMENT BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON

REF: A) STATE 278024; B) STATE 276851; C) COLOMBO 2793

D) USCZ 21989; E) USIA 21991; F) COLOMBO 3446

1. EMBASSY/USIS APPRECIATE THOUGHTFUL AND CAREFULLY PREPARED PROPOSED STATEMENT BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON (REF A), WHICH IS A CONCISE BUT EFFECTIVE SUMMARY OF PRESENT US POLICY TOWARD SRI LANKA. OUR PROBLEM IS THAT, NOT BEING PRIVY TO DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON BETWEEN STATE AND USIA, WE ARE NOT QUITE CLEAR AS TO HOW THIS STATEMENT IN ITS PRESENT FORM IS TO BE USED.

2. REFS C THROUGH F ARE ALL USIA MESSAGES WHICH DEPT MAY NOT HAVE SEEN. WE PRESUME OCCASION FOR WHICH MESSAGE WOULD BE RECORDED IS THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF SRI LANKA BROADCASTING CORP WHICH OCCURS WEEK OF DEC 16. AS CAN BE SEEN FROM TRAFFIC, SLBC REJECTED PROPOSAL TO SEND VOA PERSONALITY TO COLOMBO ON THIS OCCASION IN ORDER AVOID PROBLEM OF EQUALITY OF TREATMENT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 COLOMB 03733 251201Z

TO OTHER COUNTRIES AND FOREIGN BROADCASTING

SYSTEMS. ORIGINAL USIS/COLOMBO PROPOSALS (REF C) INCLUDED POSSIBLE "15-MINUTE TAPED FEATURE ON US-SRI LANKA RELATIONS INCLUDING FELICITATION MESSAGE FROM VOA DIRECTOR AND REMARKS BY AMB KANAKARATNE, PRODUCED BY VOA AND PRESENTED TO SLBC ENGLISH SERVICE FOR BROADCAST DURING ANNIVERSARY WEEK".

3. PROPOSED ATHERTON TEXT MAY BE INTENDED AS A PART OF A LONGER PROGRAM WHICH OTHERWISE FEATURES APPROPRIATE CONGRATULATIONS TO SLBC ON ANNIVERSARY. HOWEVER, IF IT IS INTENDED TO STAND BY ITSELF, EITHER FOR BROADCAST BY VOA OR FOR USE BY SLBC IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROGRAM HERE, IT SEEMS TO US THAT SLBC MIGHT FIND PRESENT TEXT CONTAINS TOO MUCH EMPHASIS ON US VIEW OF OUR RELATIONS WITH SRI LANKA TO BE USEABLE WITHIN CONTEXT OF 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF SLBC. IT MIGHT ALSO AGAIN RAISE PROBLEM OF EQUAL TIME FOR OTHER COUNTRIES.

4. PERHAPS DEPT AND AGENCY MIGHT WISH TO DISCUSS FURTHER HOW PROPOSED ATHERTON STATEMENT WOULD FIT INTO SLBC ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION FORMAT, AND ADVISE US.

5. IN EVENT IT IS DECIDED NOT TO USE TEXT PROPOSED IN REF A, SUGGEST IT BE HELD FOR APPROPRIATE FUTURE OCCASION, SUCH AS WITHIN CONTEXT BICENTENNIAL YEAR, SINCE IT CONTAINS EXCELLENT SUMMARY US-SRI LANKA RELATIONS GENERALLY.

6. IF STATEMENT IS USED, WE HAVE FOLLOWING SUGGESTIONS:

A) SUBSTITUTE FOLLOWING PARA FOR PARA 2 REFTL: "I AM PLEASED TO EXTEND MY CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SRI LANKA BROADCASTING CORP ON THE COMPLETION OF 50 YEARS OF SERVICE. FOR ALMOST HALF OF THOSE 50 YEARS, THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 COLOMB 03733 251201Z

VOICE OF AMERICA HAS HAD A CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SLBC. AS THE UNITED STATES BEGINS TO CELEBRATE ITS BICENTENNIAL YEAR, I AM HAPPY TO HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO TALK ABOUT THE FRIENDSHIP AND GOOD RELATIONS WHICH OUR TWO COUNTRIES ENJOY."

B) IN PARA 4, FIRST SENTENCE, WOULD

SUGGEST PUTTING CEYLONese BEFORE AMERICANS.  
THUS, SENTENCE WOULD READ "WHAT CEYLONese AND  
AMERICANS HAVE LEARNED..."

C) IN FIRST LINE OF PARA 6, WOULD  
SUGGEST SUBSTITUTING "INFLUENCE" FOR "PRIVILEGES".

D) IN PARA 7, DELETE "TO ACHIEVE  
AGRICULTURAL SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND". SECOND  
SENTENCE WOULD THEN READ "WE HAVE SOUGHT TO  
PLAY A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE THROUGH OUR ECONOMIC  
ASSISTANCE IN BACKING YOUR PROGRAMS TO PROVIDE  
A BETTER STANDARD OF LIVING FOR ALL OF YOUR  
CITIZENS".

E) IN PARA 8, FIRST SENTENCE,  
DELETE "AMERICANS FEEL A SPECIAL AFFINITY  
TOWARD SRI LANKA BECAUSE OF OUR COMMON" AND  
INSERT "WE ESPECIALLY ADMIRE SRI LANKA'S".  
FIRST SENTENCE WOULD READ "FINALLY, WE ESPECIALLY  
ADMIRE SRI LANKA'S ADHERENCE... IMPLY".

F) IN FIRST SENTENCE OF PARA 10,  
SUGGEST DELETING "A JOINT" AND SUBSTITUTING  
"BY A COMMON"; ALSO INSERT  
"AND" BETWEEN "MANKIND", AND "BY"; AND DELETING  
"WHICH" AND INSERTING "THUS" BETWEEN "AND" AND  
"CANNOT". ALSO WE ARE UNCERTAIN OF THE MEANING  
OR PURPOSE OF THIRD AND FOURTH SENTENCES OF  
PARA 10. BELIEVE IT MIGHT BE PREFERABLE  
TO DELETE THESE TWO SENTENCES. WE WOULD INSTEAD  
SUBSTITUTE AS FOLLOWS: "A WILLINGNESS TO TAKE  
INTO ACCOUNT OTHER VIEWS, IN SPITE OF DIFFERENCES,  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 COLOMB 03733 251201Z

IS A FUNDAMENTAL NECESSITY IF THE WORLD IS TO  
SETTLE THE CRITICAL ISSUES FACING IT THROUGH  
PEACEFUL MEANS".  
VAN HOLLEN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, SPEECHES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 25 NOV 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** woolflhd  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975COLOMB03733  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750410-0279  
**From:** COLOMBO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19751113/aaaaakqq.tel  
**Line Count:** 158  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 STATE 278024, 75 STATE 276851, 75 COLOMBO 2793  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** woolflhd  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 02 SEP 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <02 SEP 2003 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <04 DEC 2003 by woolflhd>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DRAFT STATEMENT BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON  
**TAGS:** PFOR, CE, (ATHERTON, ALFRED L JR)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006